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ACCOUNTABILITY UNITY TRANSPARENCY EQUALITY

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga Seeks to Lower Hawaiian Airline Fares...



Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga seems to have left a lasting impression on Hawaiian Airlines CEO Mark Dunkerley. Earlier this month enroute back from meetings in Washington D.C. and Utah, the governor met with the Hawaiian Air boss in Honolulu and requested that Hawaiian reduce airfares on the Honolulu-Pago Pago route.

According to Mr. Dunkerley, at the ceremony marking Hawaiian's inaugural flight from Honolulu to Auckland, New Zealand last Wednesday- he had a very fruitful discussion with Governor Lolo and described him as a very nice and gentle man who cares

deeply about the territory.

The airline CEO said he remembered Lolo when he was Senate President and had approached Hawaiian Air with concerns about the airline's service to American Samoa. Mr. Dunkerley said he was very impressed with the new governor and looks forward to working with him.

At the Honolulu meeting, the airline CEO explained factors affecting Hawaiian Airline's operational costs in American Samoa which preclude a lowering of airfares. Only half of the passengers are paying full fares, the rest travel on K-fares or employee discounts, government

airport services including personnel and fuel are high and Hawaiian has to double up crew on flights to American Samoa.

According to Dunkerley there will be no changes in Hawaiian Air's service to American Samoa in the near future. However he revealed during his discussions with Governor Lolo the airline's plans to acquire smaller aircraft which are more economical to operate, for flights to American Samoa. The smaller aircraft should be delivered in 2017 and that would be the first chance for airfares on the Honolulu Pago Pago route to come down.

For a comparison on airfares, if you booked a flight online today from Pago Pago to Honolulu it would cost \$1444 round trip. But if you were booking a seat from Honolulu to Auckland, a longer flight, it would cost \$826. Hawaiian's new direct service from Honolulu to Auckland is three flights a week and a fourth flight will be added in the latter part of the year.

Calendar of Events:

Business Workshop	Mar 22
ASG Pay Day	Mar 25
Good Friday	Mar 29
April Fool's Day	Apr 1
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What's New

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Governor Moliga solicits Indonesia's help in Korea House Repairs



What used to be an iconic building in the capital village of Pago Pago would be restored to its old glory if a request by Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga gets the nod from Indonesia's Ambassador to the United States.

When the governor met with Jakarta's ambassador Dr. Dino Patti Djalal Djalal in Honolulu a few weeks ago, Lolo asked him for assistance in rehabilitating Korea House and converting it to a Youth Center for the Eastern Division.

According to the Governor's Office Ambassador Djalal said at the meeting he will consider the request. In the reprogramming of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act monies from projects which had not met certain deadlines, a year ago, \$300,000 was awarded to establishing a youth center at the old Korea House.

The project was an initiative of former First Lady Maryanne Tulafono under the Taitaitama program whose aims are to combat teenage pregnancy, stem alcohol and cigarette use among minors and empower youth.

The funding was awarded at the same time that an ARRA grant of \$300,000 was approved for the Boys and Girls Club of American Samoa to renovate the old PX in Tafuna as its headquarters. That project was completed but there are no signs of Korea House ever getting renovated. The last time that the building was used was when it was used as a temporary market during construction of the Fagatogo marketplace from 2007 to 2010.

Meanwhile the Indonesians are building a playground and basketball court for which locations were inspected by Ambassador Djalal during his second visit here a week ago.

Indonesia is also offering scholarships for two youth from American Samoa to study in Indonesia and for a police officer to receive training.

The Governor is referring the scholarships to the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs for the selection of two participants based on essay competition with the specifics and criteria to be developed by the agency.

The police officer training slot will be referred to the Commissioner of Public Safety who will select a deserving police officer based on the selection criteria established.

Meet the Budget Office's Newly Confirmed Director-Cathy Saelua

Mrs. Cathy Saelua is now confirmed as the director of the Office of Planning and Budget with her endorsement today by the House of Representatives. The House voted 17 to 1 to approve her nomination. Mrs. Saelua has worked at the Budget Office for the past 24 years, starting as a budget analyst and working her way up the ladder to become deputy director, a position she has held for the past five years.

The Faasao graduate holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Mount St. Mary's College and a Master's degree in Education from San Diego State University.

FA'AFETAI MO LE FESOASOANI MAI A LE ATUNU'U - INDONESIA

Na feutaga'i le Afioga a le Kovana Sili, Lolo MOLIGA ma le Amepasa o Indonesia i le Unaite Setete le Foma'i o Dino Patti Djalai Djalai, ma ua 'ave i ai se fanoga a le Afioga i le Kovana Sili ina ia toe fausia le fale Kolea o lo'o i totonu o le Paka i PagoPago e fai ma fale mo Tupulaga Talavou i le fa'aitū i sasa'e.

Sa malaga mai lenei ali'i o Djalai e fia fesoasoani mo le atunu'u i le fausia lea o ni malae ta'alo se lua mo tupulaga talavou, atoa ma le ofoina atu o ni sikolasipi se lua mo leoleo.

LAFOGA - OFISA O TUPE FA'ASOASOA ma le OFISA O LAFOGA

Ua totogia nei le \$3,291,497.00 mo le aofa'iga o le 2,145 tagatanu'u ona o a latou lafoga. O le aso ananafi na totogia lafoga a tagata e 592 mo le aofa'iga e \$945,175.00. Afai o e fa'atali mo lau siaki, onosa'i o lo'o fa'asolo mai pea le tufa.



FEILOA'I LE AFIOGA
I LE KOVANA SILI
MA LE PUKE O LE
HAWAIIAN AIR

Ua feso'ota'i pea le faigamalo ma le ofisa o le Hawaiian Air, ona o le fia maua lava o se to'omaga mo pasese femalagaa'i o le atunu'u i le Unaite Setete. Na toe fa'amalo'ulo'u le augani a le Afioga a le Kovana Sili Lolo Moliga i le Susuga ia Mark Dunkerley ina ia alofagia lenei faigata o lo'o feagai pea ma le atunu'u, ona o le taugatā tele o pasese.

“...e lagona e le pule o le Hawaiian Air le mafatia o le Kovana Sili...”

O le tali faitau mai a le Susuga ia Dunkerley, o le faigata, ona o le taugata tele o le suau'u, ae atonu ini tausaga oi luma (2017), o le a maua ai se fesoasoani pe a maua mai ni va'alele laiti e feoa'i i le va o Hawaii ma Amerika Samoa. E lagona e le pule o le Hawaiian Air le mafatia o le Afioga i le Kovana Sili ona o le alofa tele i lona atunu'u, ma o le a taumafai pea e saili se tasi auala e fesoasoani mai ai.

Calling all Contestants, “*LE LEO*” is now in Town.



Contestants are lining up to be a part of this year's “Le Leo o Amerika Samoa” contest. Fashioned the same way as the U.S. reality show “The Voice”, Deputy Director Tapumania Galu Satele said this program was set in place to replace the “Star Search” program.

The program will take place over a seven week period not including the auditions which will take place next week on Tuesday, Thursday and possibly Friday (Friday has still yet to be determined by the coordinators).

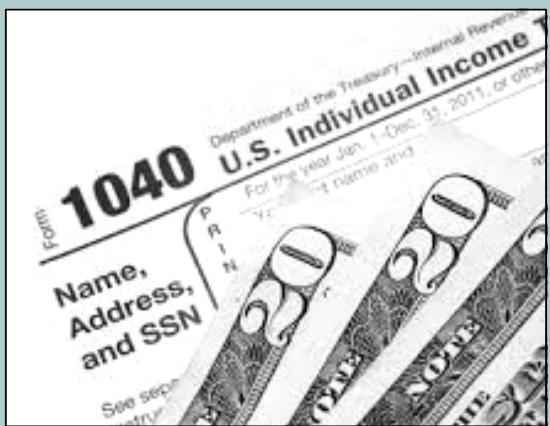
The venue that has been set aside for the main event will be the Lee Auditorium and KVZK-TV will be broadcasting “live” starting April 3rd until a winner is announced in the completion of the seventh week.

All contestants must be 16-25 years old and they must pay a \$20.00 fee to participate. Text voting, provided by Blue Sky Communications, will be used to get a consensus of the winner of each week and all prizes are already set forth.

Tapumania also stated that there might be an extra prize for the grand prize winner that is still in the works for that day.

For more information please feel free to contact Tapumania Galu Satele with the Department of Youth and Women's Affairs at 633-2835/2836.

Batch #5 of Tax Refund Checks are in!



March 20, 2013—Treasury is scheduled to release this afternoon another batch of tax refunds. A total of 592 checks will be issued for run #5 totaling \$945,175. Of that amount, \$556,635 is for the Additional Child Tax Credit while \$388,540 is the local contribution. The refunds cover some of those who filed up to February 7th.

To date, a total of 2,145 tax refund checks have been issued totaling \$3,291,497. The ACTC portion is close to \$2 million while the local portion is about \$1.3 million.

First Lady Cynthia Moliga Endorse 'Light the Way' Campaign for National Disabilities' Month



A recent letter from the First Lady of New Jersey-Mr. Mary Pat Christie, inviting First Lady Cynthia Moliga to join her in the 2013 'Light the Way' campaign to spread awareness of recent revolutionary advances being made to empower individuals with Down syndrome—inspired the First Lady to initiate and promote the campaign by decorating the Governor's mansion with blue ribbons.

According to First Lady Cynthia Moliga, her approach is to implement outreach programs that will not just tackle one issue, but the multiple concerns that surround the territory and this will definitely include advocating for individuals with disabilities.

"By this time next year, American Samoa will join the list of States and Territories that are in full support of the 'Light the Way' campaign that recognizes our special citizens with Down syndrome and inspire their loved ones in their continued efforts to advance cognitive research..." said the First Lady, Cynthia Moliga.

Lealao Mel Purcell is Confirmed Director of Department of Agriculture

Another director has received the endorsement of the Fono. Today the Senate gave unanimous approval to the governor's nomination of Lealao Soloatoa Melila Purcell to serve as director for the Department of Agriculture. The vote was 16-0. Lealao was approved by the House of Representatives last week also with a unanimous endorsement of 15-0.

Lealao is the third cabinet member to receive the support of all senators and House members; the first two were Taimalelagi Dr. Claire Poumele, director of Port Administration, and Douglas Fiaui, the director of the Office of the Public Defender.

During his confirmation hearing, Lealao spoke about the progress made by his department in growing taro, banana, cocoa and lemon trees for distribution to farmers. He said they are also looking at starting a pig's farm later this month.

Senators did not question Lealao's qualifications but advised him to continue to develop programs to help farmers and promote the local agricultural industry.

Lealao is not new to the top agricultural post as he was also director of agriculture under the Togiola/Faoa administration.

Before that he was a consultant with the National Emergency Grant Program for home gardening projects and was the human resources manager for StarKist Samoa for nearly 25 years. He also worked at the Department of Education for 12 years.

Lealao retired from the US Army after 20 years in the US Army Reserve. He holds a bachelor's degree from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in education from the University of Hawaii.

PUBLIC NOTICE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS Program Year (PY) 2013 Annual Action Plan Draft

The American Samoa Government (ASG) invites public comments on the Annual Action Plan (AAP) Draft for PY 2013 as required and provided in the provisions of 24 CFR &91.200 and &91.220 (b). Public comments are invited for a 30-day period commencing on Saturday, March 23, 2013 to Monday, April 22, 2013. The public review draft is available at the Department of Commerce, 2nd floor of the A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building. The PY2013 AAP draft will also be available online via www.americansamoa.gov.

A public meeting to accept verbal and written comments on the PY2013 AAP Draft will be held at the Department of Commerce Conference Room on Wednesday, April 10 at 4:30pm. Translation into and out of Native Language (Samoan) that is widely spoken will be provided at the meeting. The Community Planning and Development (CPD) Programs of American Samoa complies with 24 CFR &91.220 (i) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, or special modifications to participate in the public meeting or to comment on the AAP Draft should contact the CPD Coordinator, Petti Matila, at 633-5155 ext. 270 or the Fair Housing Officer, Karen Soli, at 633-5155 ext. 271.

Written comments on the Public review draft may be sent to:

ASG CPD Coordinator
Office of the Governor
A.P.Lutali Executive Office Building, 3rd Floor
Pago, Pago American Samoa 96799
Fax: (684)633-4195
Email: asghud@go.as.gov

Comments must be received no later than 4:00p.m. Monday April 22, 2013. If you have any questions regarding this notice, contact Petti T. Matila at 633-5155 ext. 270 or Karen Soli @ 633-5155 ext. 271.